



Watershed Protection Program

Equine Facilities

Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Phone: (888) 846-0800

Fax: (858) 495-5263

Releasing pollutants directly or indirectly into the storm drain system or waterways is a violation of the County Watershed Protection Ordinance (WPO). Below is a list of best management practices (BMPs) that may be applicable to your business.

This list is not all inclusive; refer to the WPO for further details.

For more information, call your inspector or the Stormwater Hotline at (888) 846-0800.

Horse facilities can prevent pollution by eliminating runoff of sediment and by properly managing wastes such as manure, urine, and soiled bedding. Waste and sediment have the potential to contaminate water due to biological and chemical properties that can be harmful to plants, animals, and people.

- Nutrients from horse feed, manure, or urine can pollute local waterways if allowed to run off site. Aquatic ecosystems require a balance of oxygen and nutrients to maintain healthy habitats for wildlife. When excessive organic matter, such as manure or bedding, is released into a waterway, it breaks down. As it decays, it releases nutrients into the water, which can lead to an increase in bacteria and algae. Bacteria and algae can grow rapidly in the presence of nutrients and consume oxygen in the water. Reduced oxygen levels may lead to a die-off of aquatic plants and animals. Dead organisms and decaying debris further deplete oxygen disrupting the aquatic organisms in the water.
- Bacteria and viruses in manure can threaten the health of humans, horses, and wildlife. Fecal coliform and other bacteria travel downstream. High results for bacteria in water samples tested require beach postings and closures. Bacterial and other pathogens can make swimmers ill.
- Soil erosion from your property can be accelerated by rain, wind and water runoff. When soil enters streams, it can reduce light, increase the water temperature and smother fish. Soil may contain heavy metals that can contaminate fish and make them unsafe to eat.

The WPO requires the following:

1. Manure from confined livestock, horses or other large animals, which could enter receiving waters or the stormwater conveyance system, must be cleaned up at least twice weekly. Manure may be composted or may be stored (for off-site disposal) in a manner that prevents contact with runoff.
2. Areas used for composting manure must be located, configured or managed to prevent runoff to the stormwater conveyance system and receiving waters.
3. Pet waste cannot be allowed to enter the stormwater conveyance system or receiving waters. Clean up after your animals.
4. Animal wash racks at equestrian facilities may not discharge to the stormwater conveyance system or receiving waters.

Information continued on reverse.





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Horse Waste Management includes cleaning up manure and soiled bedding on a regular basis, especially during wet weather. Other important BMPs include the following:

- ☐ Store manure on an impervious surface, such as concrete, to prevent runoff.
- ☐ Manure storage under an approved cover may also be required. A tarp is generally considered a temporary cover.
- ☐ Locate your facilities and activities away from waterways, flood-prone areas and steep hillsides.
- ☐ Use grass swales and berms to divert rain and stormwater run-on from contacting contaminants and carrying them off site.
- ☐ Divert downspouts and drains, as well as water that has contacted manure and other pollutants, to pervious vegetated areas that will absorb and filter runoff from roofs.
- ☐ Separate corrals, paddocks and manure storage areas from waterways by planting and maintaining vegetation between these areas. Vegetation slows water velocity, increases absorption, reduces runoff volume and helps filter out pollutants.
- ☐ Construct and maintain trails, arenas, roads and parking areas to minimize the discharge of sediment and petroleum products. Use dry cleanup methods regularly in parking areas and on-site roads to remove dirt and other contaminants that could enter waterways.
- ☐ Learn more about water quality testing. Obtain a test kit to identify contaminants in water entering and leaving your property.
- ☐ Protect soil by planting and maintaining vegetation. Protect disturbed slopes from erosion.
- ☐ Contain and cover stockpiles of materials such as soils, fertilizer and potting material.
- ☐ Consider composting horse manure. Composting manure can be less costly than hauling it away and makes an excellent soil amendment. For recycling information, please contact the County Recycling Program at (877) R-1 EARTH or (877) 713-2784. (Note: Some activities like composting may require additional permits.)
- ☐ For information on composting, grading and zoning-related issues, please call Planning and Development Services at (858) 565-5981. Their phone lines are "open" M-F from 8:00 am – 11:45 am.

Inspect Your Business

- ☐ Review the operations and procedures related to protecting the stormwater conveyance system and receiving waters from pollutants at least annually. Maintain documentation of the annual review on site.
- ☐ Inspect your business annually for stormwater and non-stormwater runoff. Ensure that all non-stormwater discharges are eliminated or captured for recycle, reuse, or proper disposal.
- ☐ Eliminate any illicit connections or illegal discharges to the storm drain system or receiving waters.
- ☐ Review your Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and other related documents to ensure they are up to date. Update the plan to reflect any changes that have been implemented.
- ☐ All stormwater-related documentation, including training records, SWPPP, annual facility self-inspection, etc., shall be kept on site. Provide documentation to the County inspector upon request.

The Watershed Protection, Stormwater Management, and Discharge Control Ordinance may be found at [www.sdcdpw.org/ WPO](http://www.sdcdpw.org/WPO)

Additional BMP information may be found in the BMP Toolbox at [www.projectcleanwater.org/ bmp](http://www.projectcleanwater.org/bmp)



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